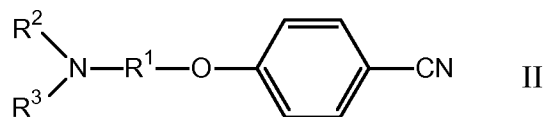
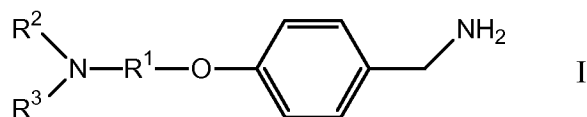


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzylamines of general formula (I) by catalytically hydrogenating 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of the general formula (II)



where, in the compounds of general formula (I) and general formula (II),  $\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ -alkylene,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ -alkyl or are joined to give a ring which may additionally contain a heteroatom, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at elevated pressure and elevated temperatures at a pressure of from 5 to 350 bar and at a temperature of from 50 to 250°C and wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at pressures of from 5 to 200 bar.

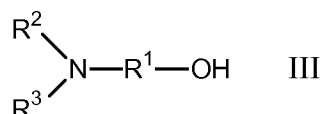
4. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted at temperatures of from 60 to 110° C.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of Raney nickel or Raney cobalt.

7. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of ammonia.

8. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of the general formula (II) is obtained by reacting a 4-halobenzonitrile with an alkali metal salt of an aminoalcohol of the general formula (III)

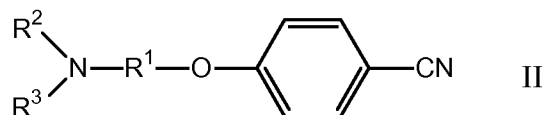


where  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each as defined above.

9. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the alkali metal salt of the aminoalcohol (III) is obtained by reaction with a base AM where M is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and A is hydride,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkyl, hydroxyl or  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$ -alkoxy.

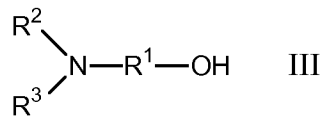
10. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is ethylene and  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each methyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of general formula (II)



where  $\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkylene, and  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl or are joined to give a ring which may additionally contain a heteroatom, the process comprising converting an aminoalcohol of general formula (III) to an alkali metal salt using a base AM where M is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and A is hydride,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, and reacting the alkali metal salt with 4-halobenzonitrile and wherein the process is conducted in the presence of an aprotic solvent[.].]



12. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base AM is sodium methoxide or sodium ethoxide.

13. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein methanol or ethanol is distilled out of the reaction mixture.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the conversion of the aminoalcohol to the alkali metal salt is conducted at temperatures of from 100 to 140° C.

16. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the amount of the alkali metal salt relative to the 4-halobenzonitrile is from 1.00 to 1.5 equivalents.

17. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at temperatures of from 60 to 110° C.

18. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of Raney nickel or Raney cobalt.

19. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of ammonia.

20. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein  $R^1$  is ethylene and  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each methyl.

**DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1 and 11 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 5 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 3, 4, 6-10 and 12-20 were previously presented.

Upon entry of the amendments claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13 and 15-20 will be active.

This amendment to claim 1 is supported by claims 2 and 5 as previously presented.

The amendment to claim 11 is supported on page 5, lines 39-40 of the specification.

No new matter has been added.